COVERUPS!

Number 1 | *Gary Mack, Editor & Publisher* | July, 1982

MAJOR FLAWS IN NEW JFK ACOUSTICS STUDY; BARGER WILL RESPOND

Significant errors have been found in the National Academy of Sciences'(NAS) study of the JFK acoustics evidence. At least two of them can independently invalidate the conclusions of the Norman Ramsey panel.

Dr. James Barger, who headed the original study of the Dallas Police tapes for the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA), begins a series of meetings with associates Mark Weiss and Ernest Aschkenasy on August 9 to work out responses to the NAS Report. And while Barger will not comment publicly, he has confirmed that one of the apparent flaws is the Panel's observation of automatic gain control in the Channel 1 recording.

In simple terms, AGC is continuous, automatic volume control which is found in most portable cassette recorders and some radio receivers. When the incoming audio is too loud, AGC circuitry reduces it, while a soft sound is boosted. The Ramsey Panel found and measured AGC action on Channel 1 of the DPD tapes, then used it to confirm a theory offered by researcher Steve Barber.

The Barber theory is that a faint voice during the gunshots is that of Dallas County Sheriff Bill Decker. Seconds after the shooting, Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry ordered the motorcade to Parkland Hospital via the Channel 2 radio; 62 seconds later, Decker, who was riding in the same car, also used the radio. A 3½ second fragment of Decker's Channel 2 conversation also appears on Channel 1 during the last two gunshots. Only two possibilities, therefore, can explain this "crosstalk" situation: the impulses thought to be gunshots were actually something else occurring more than one minute after the shooting, or Decker's voice had been dubbed in and what was thought to be the original Dictabelt recording was really an altered copy.

The Ramsey Panel had the Channel 1 recording computer enhanced and the sound patterns photographed for later analysis. They clearly show the motorcycle noise and gunshot impulses, as well as Decker's conversation. Just after his voice appears, a second Channel 1 microphone is opened, thus creating a heterodyne beep tone. That tone, in the opinion of the Panel, caused the AGC circuitry *in the receiver* to reduce the volume of Decker's voice for the duration of the tone. After it ended, the AGC raised Decker's volume back to its initial level.

The Panel thus decided that on November 22, 1963 an open microphone on Channel 1 was located close to a Channel 2 radio and loudspeaker. Several times in a period of nearly 6 minutes the mic picked up some Channel 2 sounds and relayed them back to the Channel 1 receiver and eventually to a Dictaphone recorder. In the Panel's opinion, this was conclusive proof the "...crosstalk recordings were made through a radio receiver with automatic gain control." Because of the specific nature of this AGC, it also decided the Dictabelt recording could not have been a copy with Decker dubbed in.

The major flaw, however, is a crucial assumption by the Panel that "the Channel 1 receiver was fitted with automatic gain control (AGC)..." I have talked with the two City of Dallas engineers who designed, installed and maintained the DPD radio system and they emphatically deny the existence of any AGC. The entire radio system was manufactured by Motorola and all relevant radios and receivers are now known (HSCA investigators were unable to determine the receiver brand name or model).

The DPD used three receivers at that time, and all were from Motorola's Sensicon series—the company's best. Circuit diagrams still exist for all the known Motorola equipment and it's my understanding they confirm Dr. Barger's suspicion that AGC was not present in the system.

In his report to the HSCA Barger noted the presence of AGC and attributed it to either the receiver, the open mic itself or the recorder. HSCA investigators had found that most of the DPD mics were Motorola (which Barger knew did not have AGC), but a few were manufactured by General Electric; unfortunately, circuit diagrams and other information on the GE units could not be located. Yet the same engineers who told me about the Motorola system also pointed out the GE mics were not used in either motorcycles or squad cars. So as a possible source of AGC, they can be ruled out.

Barger also told the HSCA the Dictaphone recorder did have AGC circuitry, but it was not part of the radio system. The output of the three receivers was carried by separate telephone lines to the DPD where it was fed to the dispatcher's room. There it was sent by distribution amplifiers to various locations, including the recorder. The Dictaphone could not interact with incoming signals to produce the AGC effect found by the Ramsey Panel.

The means by which Decker's Channel 2 transmission also appeared on Channel 1 was a major factor for the Panel's consideration. According to the Dallas engineers, they were never contacted about any facet of the NAS investigation. Former DPD Sergeant Jim Bowles, whom the Panel did rely upon for other important information, also knew there was no AGC in the radio system, but he was never asked.

The simplest explanation for the presence of this distinctive type of AGC is that the "original" Dictabelt recording is actually a copy made by holding a mic next to a speaker and re-recording the output onto a new Dictabelt while the recording of Channel 2 was playing in the background.

Other possibilities may surface in Barger's report, but one fact is now inescapable: the original recording is not in evidence and tampering may be involved. This does not necessarily rule out the recording as evidence because the 1978 HSCA gunshot tests identified four of the impulses as rifleshots fired in Dealey Plaza at the precise time the President was there. Unless one argues that 4 other shots were dubbed in after being recorded in the Plaza, the Dictabelt recording remains proof of conspiracy.

The HSCA scientists determined that both radio channels were recorded continuously in the relevant period and the NAS Panel found three separate crosstalk occurrences in a period of about 3 minutes. One would think that synchronizing the two tapes to a common point would be easy and the other two crosstalks would correspond.

Well they don't, and that brings to mind only two explanations: one or both channels were not recorded continuously, or one or both tapes have been altered.

When the tapes were synchronized with Decker and timed to the next crosstalk point (DPD officer Bellah asking about his assignment), the Ramsey Panel found Channel 2 was short 46 seconds; in other words, the Channel 2 recorder could have stopped one or more times for a total of 46 seconds.

The Panel accepted HSCA evidence that both recorders were sound activated: any incoming noise, speech or otherwise and louder than a preset level, triggered the recorders to start. But the same relay system stopped the recorders after a length of time when no sound was received.

Former DPD Sergeant Jim Bowles told me this time period was 4 seconds, so I put that information in a long acoustics article for the March 1982 Continuing Inquiry; before the newsletter was published I sent a copy to Professor Ramsey.

Ramsey quickly checked with Bowles, who confirmed the figure but again left out several important details. He had no first-hand knowledge that 4 seconds was correct. That figure had been told him many years ago when he first joined the radio division. He did have direct knowledge the machine "often tried to run," that it would frequently run for 6, 7 or 8 seconds before shutting down, and that it would occasionally run without stopping at all. Ramsey did not tell Bowles the significance of the 4 second figure.

Within the Decker-Bellah crosstalk points the Panel found five relatively silent places, all between 4.8 and 5.6 seconds in duration, and identified them as possible stops accounting for the missing seconds. But Bowles' information strongly suggests these silences were too short to stop the recorder. In fact, I've found another radio division officer who is certain the relays were set for 6 seconds.

Surprisingly, the Panel did not analyze the Channel 2 recording to learn if any pauses *actually* took place. To get an idea of how the recorder operated that day the Panel could have examined all potential silences within one hour of the assassination. Voice traffic prior to the shooting was fairly light, consisting mostly of Chief Curry and the dispatcher. If the majority of silences were about 4 seconds, one could safely assume the recorder was set for that period of time; but the panel looked at only those five, which were all 4.8 seconds or longer.

The Channel 2 recorder, a Gray Audograph, was an unsophisticated device at least 12 years old. Unlike the Channel 1 Dictaphone recorder, the Audograph had no built-in relay system or loudspeaker. I talked with the City of Dallas engineer who supervised installation of the recorder and he remembers building a simple relay which initially stopped the recorder after about 2 seconds of silence; after experimentation, the stop was reset to *at least* 4 seconds, perhaps 6. He added it could have been reset at any time without his knowledge.

HSCA investigators were unable to locate circuit diagrams or other information about the Audograph recorder, yet I found several listings in the 1978 and 1982 Dallas telephone directories with an address, ironically, on Stemmons Expressway. The Gray Company was bought in 1971 by the Lanier Corporation, which has an office in Dallas and main office in Atlanta. A company spokesperson told me they probably have the circuit information, but if not, many Gray engineers were retained by Lanier and could be available for further information. If the Ramsey Panel made any inquiry of Lanier, it's not mentioned in the Report.

Those diagrams will yield a crucial piece of information and could decisevly answer what happened to the power hum when the machine started and stopped. The Dallas engineer and another researcher say the recording signal was present at all times. This means, on playback, the 60 cycle hum should fluctuate upward as the machine "coasted" to a stop and downward upon starting and reaching normal speed. The Ramsey Panel did not perform this basic and crucial test to confirm the five potential stops.

If it can be demonstrated the Channel 2 recorder did not stop in this period, then the crosstalk is definitely an overdub induced by someone making a copy of the original Channel 1 Dictabelt.

Incidentally, the digital spectrograms, which the Panel used to identify and confirm the crosstalk and AGC, were not made from the "original" Dictabelt or the DPD tape copy located by the HSCA and analyzed by Dr. Barger. The Panel used a third or fourth generation copy provided by Jim Bowles. At Ramsey's request, Bowles took his personal tape copy (made in March 1964) and had it copied at a Dallas recording studio. Bowles says he provided two copies, filtered and unfiltered. I talked with the engineer who did the work and he says one or both tapes were fed through a Burwen Noise Reduction system to "enhance" the speech. The Burwen device uses split-frequency AGC circuitry. It's possible the AGC seen by the Panel is only an artifact—comparison with the Dictabelt itself should easily answer this question.

These are just a few of the many problems caused by the Ramsey Panel and I've passed this and more on to Dr. Barger. Late word is that Barger's response should be complete by the middle of September.

Latest test finds no 'grassy knoll shot'

Washington Post News Service

WASHINGTON — A special panel of the National Academy of Sciences concluded Friday that a Dallas police tape-recording made at the time of President John F. Kennedy's assassination does not show that there was a second gunman.

The panel reported that the noises on the tape previously identified as gunfire "were recorded about one minute after the president was shot and the motorcade had been instructed to go to the hospital."

The report was the latest, but far from final, chapter in the controversy surrounding the 1963 assassination in Dallas' Dealey Plaza. It flatly contradicted the experts who told the House Assassinations Committee in 1978 that their tests of the same recording showed "beyond a reasonable doubt" that a second gunman fired at the president from the area of the so-called grassy knoll.

By contrast, the new panel, headed by Norman Ramsey of Harvard, said after a 1½-year study that "the acoustic analyses do not demonstrate that there was a grassy knoll shot, and in particular, there is no acoustic basis for the claim of 95 percent probability of such a shot."

The noises on the tape, Ramsey said in a telephone interview, are "probably static."

The experts for the House committee had described the sounds as gunshots, three from the Texas School Book Depository behind the president and one from the grassy knoll to the right of Kennedy's motorcade.

"The chances of its being static or other noise are higher than previously estimated," Ramsey said. Higher than gunshots? "Yes, OK. Higher than gunshots," he said.

The study came in for some instant criticism and will undoubtedly generate more in the interminable debate about who killed Kennedy. One of the experts for the House committee, James Barger, said one aspect of it seemed particularly "disingenuous."

The noises from Dealey Plaza at the time of the assassination were believed to have been accidentally recorded when a transmitter on a police motorcycle in the presidential motorcade stuck.

The new study made much of the fact that no police sirens can be heard on the recording for almost two minutes after the time the House experts delineated as that of the assassination.

"Many witnesses agree that sirens were activated shortly after the final shot and as the motorcade speeded up for its dash to Parkland Hospital," the report said. "The complete absence of siren sounds for two minutes is difficult to explain."

The report was conducted at the request of the Justice Department. The 12-member panel, formally styled the Committee on Ballistic Acoustics, listed a number of further possible studies, but said it did not think them worth the cost.

The report made no mention of the explanation given by the House committee: a United Press International photograph at the time showed that the Dallas police officer whose transmitter had stuck, H.B. McLain, had lagged behind after the shooting, still in Dealey Plaza alongside the grassy knoll while the motorcade sped off ahead.

Committee lawyers concluded that McLain then caught up with the motorcade, because siren sounds can be heard on the recording about 1 minute and 50 seconds after the presumed time of the shooting.

McLain has insisted that his siren was going, too, but the official police plan for the motorcade indicated that only three advance officers were to use "sirens when needed." McLain was not one of them.

The Ramsey panel said it also detected some "hold everything" talk on the recording—apparently the Dallas sheriff's instructions to his men in response to the assassination. The report pinpointed those words as having been uttered at the same time the gunshots were supposed to have been fired, clearly an impossibility.

Using another more distinctly enunciated segment of conversation from the two-channel recording, the National Academy's panel said that the supposed gunshots occurred after—not before—the Dallas police chief could be heard saying, "Go to the hospital."

As a result, the scientists concluded that the supposed gunshot noises "were recorded about one minute after the assassination and, therefore, too late to be attributed to assassination shots."

Other experts have suggested that a different but equally plausible alignment of who said what and when on one channel, in relation to the supposed gunshot noises on the other channel, would support the conclusion of the House committee's experts that the noises were gunshots.

One of the firms that did the House studies, Bolt, Beranek & Newman of Cambridge, Mass., said it has not had a chance to study the Ramsey panel's report in any detail. For now, the firm said simply that it "raises a scientific controversy about complex technical issues."

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1982 ■ 1982 FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

The Dallas Morning News Saturday, May 15, 1982

NATIONAL

DMN 5-11-82

Kennedy tape data rejected

By Janet Battaile
Washington Bureau of The News

WASHINGTON — Acoustical evidence does not support the conclusion by the House Assassinations Committee that a second gunman probably was involved in the death of John F. Kennedy, a study commissioned by the Justice Department said Friday.

The report by a special committee of the National Academy of Sciences disputed both the methodology and the conclusions of two previous reports that analyzed sound recordings picked up by a police microphone stuck open at the time of the November 1963 shooting in Dealey Plaza in Dallas.

Both earlier reports, completed in 1978 and 1979 at the request of the committee, concluded with 95 percent probability that among the sounds heard on the microphone was a gunshot fired from the grassy knoll area of the plaza. As Lee Harvey Oswald shot Kennedy from a window of the nearby Texas School Book Depository, the assassinations committee concluded, there was a high probability that the grassy knoll bullett was fired by another gunman.

But the report released Friday by the Committee on Ballistic Acoustics said it was the unanimous determination of the 12 members that: "The acoustic analyses do not demonstrate that there was a grassy knoll shot," and therefore, "do not support a conclusion that there was a second gunman."

But the committee said it was not concluding that there was no second gunman, only that available acoustical evidence fails to prove it.

The report stated that the sound identified by earlier experts as the grassy knoll shot occurred about one minute after the assassination, at a time when the motorcade was speeding toward Parkland Hospital.

The committee was able to determine the timing after it discovered that the microphone recording included phrases recorded on another police channel. The "cross talk" led it to assume that the motorcycle with the open microphone was near another police radio receiving a transmission from the other channel, which it picked up.

The existence of identical portions of speech on both channels permitted the committee to synchronize the events with the sounds on the tape.

The findings also support the contention of Dallas Police Sgt. Leslie Beilharz that the stuck microphone recording used in the studies came from his motorcycle, which he said was nowhere near Dealey Plaza at the time of the shooting.

The assassinations committee had said the microphone was on a motorcycle belonging to Officer H.B. McLain, who was in the presidential motorcade at the time of the shooting.

The report released Friday said that sirens heard on the recording go from inaudible to loud and back to inaudible, an occurrence that would be inconsistent with a sound recorded by a microphone that was actually following the president's car.

The report further said that in the earlier analyses, "desirable control tests were omitted, serious errors were made in some of the statistical calculations, incorrect statistical conclusions were drawn and the analysis methods used were novel in some aspects and were untested at such high levels of background noise."

MD who saw report on Kennedy autopsy dies while jogging

United Press International

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Dr. James Weston, one of the pathologists allowed to examine autopsy reports on President John F. Kennedy, died while jogging at a golf course near his home.

The body was found late Sunday by his son, Chris, on the Orroyo del Oso Golf Course in Albuquerque.

Weston, 57, had gone jogging about 8:30 p.m., and when he failed to return, the son went to look for him. He found the body about 11:20 p.m.

"He apparently died of natural causes," police officer Dan Carmichael said.

Weston had been chief medical investigator for New Mexico for several years. Before taking the New Mexico job, Weston had served in a similar capacity in Utah.

Weston was a graduate of Cornell University and the Cornell University Medical College in Ithaca, N.Y.

As one of the pathologists to examine autopsy reports on Kennedy, Weston was often quoted in news reports about the assassination.

He most recently defended the official report of the investigation that said the president was killed by bullets fired from behind the motorcade.

The Shot That Wasn't There

It came as no surprise to many Americans when in 1979 the House Select Committee on Assassinations announced that President John Kennedy had been killed "probably as a result of a conspiracy" because "scientific acoustical evidence establishes a high probability that two gunmen fired" at him. That conclusion seemed to provide a solid foundation at last for some of the wild conspiracy theories that had been advanced in the years since the assassination of the president in 1963. It was based on studies by two teams of scientists, one from the Cambridge, Massachusetts, acoustical consulting firm of Bolt Beranek and Newman, the other from Queens College in New York City.

The teams had been asked by the committee to analyze a segment of Dallas police radio tape thought to have been recorded during the assassination when a motorcycle patrolman's two-way radio stuck in the "on" position. After comparing the sounds on the tape with sounds recorded during re-enactments (including gunshots) of various possible versions of the assassination, the teams picked out of the tape not only the three shots that Lee Harvey Oswald fired but another shot as well. There was a "ninety-five per cent probability," they agreed, that this shot had been fired from a grassy knoll alongside the motorcade route.

A few people were incredulous. Identifying a shot on a tape full of static was one thing. But to determine the direction of the shot and the location of the second gunman seemed, at the very least, a scientific miracle. Now the nature of the miracle has become apparent. A National Research Council panel consisting of some of America's most distinguished scientists announced in May that the section of tape that was analyzed had recorded events that occurred at least a minute after the assassination, and thus could not have carried the sound of the three Oswald shots, let alone a fourth shot.

The panel, asked by the Department of Justice in 1980 to review earlier studies, had doubts after its first meeting, early in 1981. It found "errors and faults of methodology ... sufficiently serious that ... no member was convinced by previous acoustic analyses that there was a grassy knoll shot."

But the real break in the investigation was made by Steve Barber, a young jazz musician from Mansfield, Ohio. He obtained a copy of the tape and wrote to the committee that he had noticed on it what he believed to be cross-talk from another police radio channel. The council panel listened again, and with the aid of sound spectrograms, deciphered it: "Hold everything secure until the homicide and other investigators get there." It was the voice of the Dallas sheriff, giving instructions over the other police band approximately one minute after the assassination—and it coincided on the tape with noise that the House committee investigators had identified as the third and fourth shots.

What do the Cambridge and Queens College experts say to all this? "It is entirely too early to comment," says Mark Weiss, of the Queens College team. But Luis Alvarez, a Nobel laureate physicist who served on the council panel, is less reticent: "This is the kind of thing that happens when people have their minds made up. It is shocking," he says, "that you can take two completely unrelated incidents, and two separate groups of people will find them identical."

For the fanatical devotees of the "second gunman" theory, the National Research Council report is merely a setback: nothing will convince them that a conspiracy did not exist. For scientists, the report is a reminder that no one is immune from reading preconceived notions into test results. Says Alvarez, "Biological researchers have known for a long time that the human being is susceptible to cuing. It's time for the rest of us to learn the same." ▣

DISCOVER / JULY 1982

Investigator criticizes JFK findings

By Earl Golz DMN 5-15-82
Staff Writer of The News

The chief architect of a congressional committee's findings that two people were shooting at President John F. Kennedy criticized a scientific panel Friday for not "looking at all the evidence" in determining that Dallas police tape recordings did not support conclusions of a second gunman.

Louis Stokes

Notre Dame law professor G. Robert Blakey, chief counsel for the now-defunct House Assassinations Committee that in 1978 found a conspiracy probably resulted in the 1963 slaying of Kennedy, said he is hopeful "that a congressional committee will carefully examine their (National Academy of Sciences' panel) report and draw out the fact that it had brought a limited perspective to the task that it was asked to perform."

Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, chairman of the House Assassinations Committee which ended its probe in 1978, said he intends "to work to see to it that congressional hearings are held to review the committee's report and conclusions and recommendations." The NAS panel "has raised new and serious questions about our conclusions that need to be resolved," Stokes said.

Blakey said he hoped hearings would be held by the House judiciary committee on the acoustical issues. The committee now has jurisidiction over pending assassination questions. However, a spokesman for committee chairman Peter Rodino, D-N.J., said "it wouldn't be a full committee hearing if it was" and a decision on any hearing would be up to Rep. William J. Hughes, D-N.J., chairman of the subcommittee on crime.

A subcommittee staffer said Friday that "we don't have any plans to hold any hearings on that."

Blakey said the NAS panel's findings were based primarily on the recorded voice of Dallas County Sheriff Bill Decker reacting to the shooting partially during the part of the time the 6-second shot sequence is purportedly heard on the police Dictabelt. A second police radio recording clearly shows Decker did not issue post-assassination commands to his deputies until Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry relinquished the microphone after the last shot was fired.

The House Assassinations Committee stated a microphone inadvertantly stuck open on the motorcycle of a Dallas police officer in Dealey Plaza and recorded the four shots. Re-enactment of the shooting by the House committee in 1978 and a matching of echo patterns with the sound impulses on the police recording resulted in the determination that someone fired a shot from the grassy knoll to the left front of the presidential limousine. This was in addition to three shots Lee Harvey Oswald is accused of firing from the Texas School Book Depository behind the car.

The Decker voice discovery was made early last year by Steve Barber, a drummer from Mansfield, Ohio, who forwarded his finding to the NAS panel. Barber said he detected Decker talking on the tape after repeatedly playing his copy over and over.

Blakey said Friday "if the Decker observation is correct, we were wrong on all four shots, not just the shot from the grassy knoll." He said he could not accept the scientific panel's findings "as a refutation" of at least two of the Oswald shots "which with hard physical evidence (in addition to the recording) are corraborated as to timing and direction."

A Dallas police officer recently said he believed it a "very, very strong possibility" that his motorcycle's microphone was stuck open when the shooting occurred. If Sgt. Leslie Beilharz' recollection is accurate, the four sound impulses recorded could not have been the shots because he was at the intersection of Stemmons Freeway and Industrial Boulevard, 2 miles from Dealey Plaza.

#This was Earl's last JFK story for the Dallas Morning News

Tourists find door shut on history

DMN 5-20-82

By Christy Hoppe
Staff Writer of The News

Keith Bitchener, his eyes shaded by a sailor's terry cloth cap, turned his sunburned face toward the 6th-floor window and watched the reflection of the dark sky and white clouds in the panes.

"This is a major disappointment," he pronounced to his wife, who was standing nearby wearing a matching cap.

With camera in hand, the couple had traveled from New Zealand to Dallas to see the John F. Kennedy Museum. But the privately run museum closed Jan. 1, and the Bitcheners found only the old Texas School Book Depository.

Even that has changed.

The structure has been remodeled and turned into a county administration building. The 6th-floor sniper's perch has been closed to the public. There are no films of the Kennedy motorcade, no trace of history.

Bitchener looked across Elm Street toward the grassy knoll. "This was the only reason we came here," he said.

For 19 years, Dallas has tried to forget what thousands of tourists come every year to see. Sure, the visitors walk around Fair Park, drive by City Hall, and blink as they pass the World Trade Center.

But what they really want to see is the Triple Underpass.

They want to remember the day Camelot died.

The Dallas County Historical Commission this week gained $66,000 from county commissioners to hire experts to plan the format and exhibits for a John F. Kennedy musuem on the 6th floor of the recently revamped Dallas County Administration Building. The museum tentatively is scheduled to open in late 1983.

The tourists, meanwhile, continue to arrive.

County Budget Office employee Aldo Hill, by virtue of his small, 1st-floor office, inherited the dubious honor of becoming the building "heavy" — relaying the news to tourists that there is no access to the 6th floor.

It was from a 6th-floor window, police said, that accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald fired the shots that killed Kennedy.

Although the building elevator currently goes only to the 2nd floor — the upper floors have not been renovated — there are buttons indicating five floors. Sylvia Martinez, who works for the county judge, has a desk that faces the 2nd-floor elevator door.

"The doors open and I've seen them pushing that 5th-floor button again and again," Ms. Martinez said. "The doors will open and shut and open and shut. I tell them there's no way up — and they look a little embarrassed."

Outside, near the grassy knoll, city Park and Recreation Department employee Curly Mosely tends the grounds. He said he often is pressed into service as a tour guide.

"Lots of times, I get asked," he said, spearing a corn chip bag and putting it in his sack of trash. "I point to the light (pole near) where Kennedy got shot, and to the 6th-floor window."

As for himself, when he's not answering questions, Mosely said he almost never thinks about what happened 19 years ago.

"I have lots on my mind other than that," he said.

Washington DMN 4-11-82

■ The National Association of Broadcasters, which held its annual convention in Dallas last week, had hoped to have President Reagan as a speaker. It promised Reagan a friendly forum, and suggested he could stop in on his way to the Caribbean, but the president turned down the invitation, and one explanation is that his wife, Nancy, didn't want him going to Dallas. She's been especially concerned about his physical safety since the assassination attempt last March. The White House declined to confirm or deny the report.

DMN 5-7-82

HULSE
Clifford E. (Bubba), of Dallas. Survived by wife, Doris Marie Hulse, sons, Gary Ray and Perry Lee Hulse, daughter, Sherry Marie Swearingen, four grandchildren, brother, Raymond Hulse, sister, Betty Jo Mosley. Services 3:30 p.m., Saturday, Bethany Baptist Church. Rev. Hal Kinkard, officiating. Interment Grove Hill.
DUDLEY M. HUGHES BUCKNER BLVD. CHAPEL
2615 S. Buckner 388-0444

WAS THIS JFK'S ASSASSIN?—Photo at left, taken by a newspaper photographer on Nov. 22, 1963, shows two of the three "tramps" arrested in the railroad yards near the Texas School Book Depository in Dallas immediately after President John F. Kennedy was fatally shot. Neither the Dallas Sheriff's Department nor Police Department kept any record or photos of these men. Now, Jim Marrs and Jack White, JFK researchers, believe the tall man in the 1963 photo is convicted hit-man Charles V. Harrelson, now held in the assassination of Federal Judge John Wood of San Antonio. A police mug shot of Harrelson (far right) taken in November, 1968, five years after the JFK murder, shows strong similarities, Marrs says. Profile and ear are almost identical, he says. So is the nose, an unruly forelock of hair, a scar over the right eyebrow and a slight double chin.

Is Kennedy's Assassin Sitting in Texas Jail?

Nineteen years after President John F. Kennedy was murdered in Dallas, scores of unofficial researchers refuse to accept the federal government's conclusion that the sole assassin was Lee Harvey Oswald, now buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Fort Worth.

One of these is Jim Marrs, a longtime Fort Worth newspaper reporter, now a freelance writer. Marrs has never given up searching for what he describes as the untold facts of the assassination.

In the following story written for The News-Tribune, Marrs reports new developments in his search.

★★★

By JIM MARRS

Charles V. Harrelson, convicted contract hitman may actually have participated in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963.

Harrelson, who was recently charged with the slaying of Federal Judge John Wood of San Antonio, on May 29, 1979, has admitted he participated in the Kennedy assassination. And there is information indicating that he may be telling the truth, in my opinion.

The connection first came to light shortly after Harrelson's arrest near Van Horn, on Sept. 1, 1980.

High on drugs and pointing a pistol to his head, Harrelson held lawmen at bay for six hours. During this time, according to the arresting officers, Harrelson confessed not only to the Judge Wood shooting, but said he participated in the Kennedy assassination.

This statement prompted me to comb my files looking for confirmation or disavowal of Harrelson's claim.

The search led to a review of the three tramps arrested near Dealey Plaza minutes after the presidential shooting.

A Union Pacific train dispatcher named Lee Bowers said he saw three men sneak into an empty railroad car in the Union rail yards just behind the Texas School Book Depository moments after the assassination.

Bowers had the train halted when it began to move out of the yards and summoned Dallas police. Several policemen rousted the three men out of the rail car at gunpoint and marched them back past the book depository to the Dallas County Sheriff's office, located on the east side of Dealey Plaza. At least two newsmen took photographs of the men as they were marched through the plaza under armed guard.

However, once in Dallas police custody, the men officially disappeared. They were never booked and any fingerprints or names that were taken have never been made public.

These three men remain among only five or six people that the FBI failed to identify and who were on the scene at the time of the assassination.

For 19 years there has been considerable speculation as to the identities and activities of these three men. Although they were called tramps by police, photos show the men had recent haircuts, shined shoes and old, but unsoiled, clothes. In photographs, they hardly appeared to be tramps.

In 1976, the three tramps drew national attention when comedian-social activist Dick Gregory and others claimed that two of the tramps were Watergate conspirators E. Howard Hunt and Frank Sturgis. This allegation was quickly dismissed, by authorities.

After Harrelson's statement during his arrest, at Van Horn, researchers took a new look at the tramps. Harrelson, to me, looked very much like the younger of the three tramps.

This year Harrelson will be 44 years old, which means he would have been 25 on Nov. 22, 1963. This corresponds with the age of the youngest tramp, who was thought to be between 25 and 35 years old.

In June 1981, Harrelson was interviewed by Chuck Cook, who then was working for the Dallas Morning News.

"Because of his statements during his arrest I felt obligated to ask him about that," Cook told me. "I asked about the Kennedy assassination and he got this sly grin on his face. Harrelson is very intelligent and has a way of not answering when it suits him."

Cook said at a later interview, he again brought up the subject and that Harrelson became very serious.

"He told me, 'Listen, if and when I get out of here and feel free to talk, I will have something that will be the biggest story you ever had' "

Cook said when he asked what that story would be, Harrelson would only reply, "November 22, 1963. You remember that."

Cook also said he later showed photographs of the three tramps to Harrelson's current wife, Jo Ann Harrelson, and that she "was amazed at the similarities."

"Then I gave the photos to one of Harrelson's attorneys and he was supposed to show them to Harrelson. But that's the last I heard of it" said Cook "He didn't want to talk about it because he felt his jail cell was bugged, and rightly so."

In an interview with Channel Four newsman Quin Matthews, Harrelson offered futher statements on the Kennedy assassination:

"You said you'd killed President Kennedy," commented Matthew.

Harrelson replied, "At the same time I said I had killed the judge, I said I had killed Kennedy, which might give you an idea as to state of my mind at the time ... It was an effort to elongate my life. Well, do you believe Lee Harvey Oswald killed President Kennedy alone, without any aid from a rogue agency of the U.S. government or at least a portion of that agency? I believe you're very naive if you do."

Jack White, a Fort Worth graphics expert and assassination researcher, who testified before the House Select Committee on Assassination, told me he is now convinced that Harrelson is the younger tramp.

"I have done various photographic comparison tests and everything matches ... the hair, the nose, the ear. It's Harrelson in my mind," said White, a longtime advertising man here.

In addition to the photo comparisons, there is yet more evidence to indicate that Harrelson did indeed play a role in the presidential assassination.

When arrested, Harrelson was carrying the business card of R.D. Matthews. In subsequent interviews. Harrelson admitted being a close friend of Matthews and said he looked up to Matthews as a father.

Continued

FORT WORTH
Page 12 THE NEWS-TRIBUNE June 11, 1982

Is JFK Assassin Sitting in Texas Jail?

Continued From Page 10

Russell Douglas Matthews is a former Dallas character who was close to Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby, the man who shot down accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald.

Matthews was described by the House Assassinations Committee as a man "actively engaged in criminal activity since the 1940's."

The committee also documented Matthew's connections with Dallas gamblers Lewis McWillie and Benny Binion, both of whom were Ruby's close friends. The committee also developed evidence that Matthews was in contact with associates of Mafia chieftain Santos Trafficante of Florida.

Matthews was linked by the committee to Fort Worth and Dallas underworld characters such as Hollis de Lois Green, Jettie Bass, Nick Cascio and James Todd. These men, as well as Matthews, were acquaintences of Harrelson.

In a sidelight, Matthews was best man at the marriage of a Dallas underworld character named George McGann to a woman named Beverly Oliver.

Beverly Oliver, a nightclub entertainer, was close friends with several of Jack Ruby's employes and was in Dealey Plaza filming the Kennedy motorcade at the time of the assassination.

Mrs. Oliver, now an evangelist using a different name, said two FBI agents took her unprocessed film, shot from the south side of Elm Street, and promised to return the original print after it was developed. She now states that she never saw or heard of the film again.

The former chief counsel of the House Assassinations Committee, G. Robert Blakey, recently wrote a book titled, "The Plot against the President."

In this book, Blakey reiterated the committee's findings that President Kennedy was assassinated as the result of a conspiracy and that more that one gunman was involved. Blakey went further, stating that evidence compiled by the committee indicated that organized crime played a major part in that conspiracy.

If Dallas organized crime was indeed involved, and Ruby's activities appear to bear out this thesis, then the entire spectrum of the Dallas underworld at that time becomes suspect. And, this would have to include Charles Harrelson.

Ironically, the very day that Harrelson was finally charged with the Judge Wood assassination, April 16, 1982, a Dallas news reporter and assassination researcher Gary Shaw of Cleburne were scheduled to meet with Harrelson in Huntsville to discuss his role in the JFK murder.

Both the reporter and Shaw say they feel the timing of the charges being filed against Harrelson was not coincidental.

"I feel this was done at that particular time to prevent Harrelson from revealing what he knows," said Shaw.

Also indicted with Harrelson was the brother of reputed New Orleans Mafia boss Carlos Marcello, another of the organized crime figures named by the House committee as possibly involved in an assassination plot.

The proof of this connection may come when, or if, Harrelson is put on trial for the Wood slaying.

Meanwhile, the public is only left with Harrelson's cryptic reminder, "November 22, 1963. You remember that!"

DMN 4-4-82

■ Has Charles V. Harrelson got a deal for you. For a mere $60, you can buy a western belt, personally autographed by the man believed by federal investigators to have killed U.S. Dist. Judge John H. Wood Jr. That's F.O.B. Eastham Unit of the Texas Department of Corrections.

DMN 5-11-82

Man held for threat on Reagan

DANVILLE, Va. — A man charged with threatening the life of President Reagan was held on $15,000 bond Monday, the Secret Service said. Charles E. Guill, 42, was arrested late Friday by the Secret Service and jailed early Saturday, officials said.

DMN 4-14-82

Doubt cast on theory that pair shot at JFK

By Earl Golz
Staff Writer of The News
©The Dallas Morning News, 1982

A Dallas policeman said Tuesday that there is "a very, very strong possibility" that his motorcycle's radio microphone was the one open at the time President John F. Kennedy was assassinated but that he was too far away to have recorded the sound of the shots.

The House Assassinations Committee stated in 1978 that the stuck microphone of another officer, H.B. McLain, had inadvertently transmitted the sound of four shots from Dealey Plaza. The committee relied heavily on that evidence in concluding that two gunmen fired at Kennedy.

The Assassinations Committee also said that only one police microphone was stuck open that day. If that is true, and if that microphone was not McLain's, then the sounds recorded could not have been shots fired at Kennedy and serious doubt would be cast on the committee's conclusion that two gunmen fired at Kennedy.

Sgt. Leslie Beilharz said Tuesday that he did not understand the sig-

See DOUBT

Sgt. Leslie Beilharz . . . "It is definitely more of a possibility than the stuck microphone being down there at Elm and Houston."

* The Barber theory, as supported by the Ramsey Panel, requires a second radio very close to the open mic. Beilharz was alone at Stemmons & Industrial and the DPD roster shows no other officer assigned to that location.

FWST 5-27-82

FBI knew of offer to kill JFK

NEW YORK (AP) — Fidel Castro told an FBI informant in 1964 that Lee Harvey Oswald approached Cuban authorities with an offer to kill John F. Kennedy two months before he shot the president, ABC News reports.

In an upcoming documentary, ABC News says then-FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover sent Morris Childs, a member of the Communist Party of the U.S.A., to find out what the Cuban leader knew about the assassination.

James Hosty, the Dallas FBI agent who was in charge of Oswald's file before the assassination in November 1963, said Childs, code-named "Solo," learned of Oswald's contact with officials at Cuba's embassy in Mexico City.

"We know that the so-called 'Solo' source made a trip to Cuba, and talked to Castro sometime after the assassination," Hosty said, "at which time Castro advised the 'Solo' source that Oswald had told his people, in Mexico City, some weeks before the assassination, that he wanted to kill Kennedy for them."

Instead of following up on Childs' report, Hoover relied on reports from defector Yuri Nosenko and a double agent, code-named "Fedora," who said neither the Soviets nor any other foreign nation was involved in a conspiracy to kill Kennedy, according to the documentary.

Hosty said the FBI had information about Oswald's Mexico City contact with the Cubans removed from his file.

The documentary also examines other aspects of the FBI under Hoover.

ABC News presents evidence that the U.S. government broke Soviet spy codes in 1948 with the help of a charred code book found on a Finnish battlefield after World War II.

According to the documentary, intercepted, decoded messages proved the guilt of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, who were charged with conspiracy to commit espionage in 1951. But those messages were never used because the FBI did not want the Soviets to know it had broken the code.

FWST 5-19-82

● **Ray** James Earl Ray, convicted assassin of Martin Luther King Jr., filed suit Tuesday in Nashville, Tenn., against six people, including a congressman and the state correction commissioner, charging they conspired to have him killed. Ray, serving a 99-year prison term for the April 1968 slaying of the civil rights leader in Memphis, is asking for $500,000 in damages from the defendants, who include Rep. Harold Ford, D-Tenn., and state Correction Commissioner Harold Bradley.

Doubt cast on 2-gun theory

Continued from Page 1A.

nificance of a stuck radio microphone until late 1978, when the Assassinations Committee stated that the microphone was stuck open on a motorcycle that officer McLain was riding behind Kennedy's limousine.

James Bowles

McLain was following the limousine through Dealey Plaza when Kennedy was shot. Beilharz was 2 miles away at the time.

Beilharz said he believes it was his microphone that was stuck open because he heard no radio reports about the shots while he waited at his assigned post at the intersection of Stemmons Freeway and Industrial Boulevard.

He said other officers told him of the tragedy when the motorcade failed to exit from Stemmons to Industrial as scheduled and he followed the cars to Parkland Memorial Hospital.

"See, all the events that had been going on (in Dealey Plaza), I didn't pick those up on the radio," Beilharz said. "When your microphone is stuck like that, you don't pick up radio transmissions. And when I cleared . . . that's when my radio started playing again."

The radio transmission in question was recorded at Dallas police headquarters, but the recording was not examined for acoustic evidence of shots until 1978.

Beilharz, now 49, was a 9-year veteran motorcycle patrolman at the time of the assassination. He now serves in the Police Department's community services division.

James C. Bowles, a former Dallas police officer who in 1963 was a supervisor over the police radio communications system, said Tuesday that he has known for several years about the possibility of the stuck microphone being that of Beilharz or another policeman in the same area.

Bowles said he had not been asked to come forward and identify either officer.

Bowles, now an assistant chief in charge of administration for the Dallas County Sheriff's Department, has conferred several times with the chairman of a panel now evaluating the House committee's acoustical evidence. But Bowles said he saw no "particular need" to volunteer the names of either policeman.

Bowles said the other policeman, who he thinks is "more inclined toward . . . being the person that had the open mike," is now ret ired and in too poor health to become involved in the assassination controversy.

"He's in very declining health, and his wife is in worse shape than he is," Bowles said. "So he shouldn't be too long. That's a cold way of looking at it, but that's an honest way of relating to it."

The House Assassinations Committee disbanded at the end of 1978, concluding that the assassination probably was the result of a conspiracy. Committee sources said committee members considered the acoustical study of the police Dictabelt key evidence that two gunmen fired four shots at Kennedy.

The committee's conclusion contradicted the Warren Commission, which ruled in 1964 that only three shots were fired — all by Lee Harvey Oswald.

In late 1979, the U.S. Justice Department enlisted a panel of the National Academy of Sciences to evaluate the House committee's acoustical evidence. The panel's written report is expected to be released next month, said the chairman, Harvard University physics professor Norman S. Ramsey.

On Tuesday, after hearing about Beilharz for the first time, Ramsey said he intends to "talk to him and see what he is willing to do" to assist the panel in reaching its final decision.

"I think it should help us a lot," Ramsey said.

The scientific panel late last year had evidence contradicting the 1978 finding that a police radio recorded the shots the killed Kennedy, but that evidence did was not the possible identification of an open police microphone that was not in Dealey Plaza.

The evidence was the detection of the recorded voice of Dallas County Sheriff Bill Decker reacting to the shooting at the same time the purported 6-second shot sequence is being heard on the same tape.

Beilharz said he met with Bowles, then a captain, in 1979 after McLain's testimony before the House Assassinations Committee. McLain had returned to Dallas a few days after his committee appearance and denied that it was his microphone that was stuck open. But the committee insisted it was.

"I didn't really give it (the possibility that it was Beilharz' microphone that was open) any thought," Beilharz said, "because there have been so many books and all written on that — you know, people trying to make money — until here about two or three years ago, when Capt. Bowles asked me if I would come over to his office one day and listen to the tapes. That was the first time I heard the tapes."

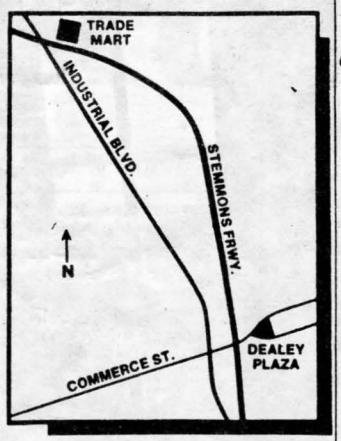
In the Warren Commission transcript of the recording, Beilharz is quoted in a conversation with the police dispatcher at 12:40 p.m. — about six minutes after the stuck microphone was corrected and 10 minutes after the assassination.

"Will you check with my supervisor and see where he wants me to go? I am through with my second assignment," Beilharz says.

His second assignment on his 3-wheel motorcycle was at the Industrial exit off Stemmons. Kennedy's limousine was to have exited on its way to a scheduled speaking engagement at the Dallas Trade Mart.

Beilharz' first assignment had been at the intersection of Lemmon and Inwood, along the route of the motorcade from Love Field to Downtown Dallas.

"I don't remember any of the radio transmissions during the period of the events down at Elm and Houston (Dealey Plaza)," Beilharz said. "And when the president went by (mortally wounded) where I was at Stemmons and Industrial, I stayed there about five minutes and then I was supposed to go back over by the plane (Air Force One). And I went by Parkland (Hospital) to see what was going on."



The Dallas Morning News: Ed Owens

It is 2 miles from Dealey Plaza, where Kennedy was shot, to the intersection of Stemmons and Industrial, where Beilharz was when he believes his motorcycle radio may have been stuck open at the time of the shooting.

Other officers told Beilharz of the shooting when he arrived at the emergency room, he said.

"When I realized I wouldn't be going to the plane — he (Kennedy) wouldn't be leaving — I cleared (over his police radio) . . . It's a strong possibility (Beilharz' was the open microphone). I'll say this: It is definitely more of a possibility than the stuck microphone being down there at Elm and Houston . . . It's a very, very strong possibility."

Beilharz said it was common for a microphone to "stick any time you hit a bump or went over a railroad track."

Bowles, who transcribed the Dictabelt recordings of radio conversations for the FBI in 1964, said the four sound impulses that the House committee acoustics experts thought were shots could have been the pecking sound of the stylus dropping on the belt as it was played over and over for transcribing.

James E. Barger, an acoustics expert from Cambridge, Mass., whose analysis of the Dallas police tape helped convince the House committee that four shots probably were recorded, said Tuesday that he had never heard of Beilharz or his story.

*typo, should read: evidence did not include the possible

DMN 3-30-82

Ray sues ex-attorney, 'Playboy' for interview

Associated Press

CHICAGO — James Earl Ray, convicted of killing the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., filed suit Monday against his former attorney and *Playboy* magazine over a published interview he says could hurt his appeals.

Ray, serving a 99-year term for killing King, accused former attorney Jack Kershaw and *Playboy* of entering into a contract that profited them but hurt his chances for legal relief, the suit said.

Ray mailed the suit from a state penitentiary in Nashville, Tenn., to U.S. District Court in Chicago, where the magazine has its headquarters.

Kershaw advised Ray to agree to the interview and to submit to a polygraph exam regarding King's 1968 assassination in Memphis, Tenn., the suit said.

Playboy "vigorously advocated" that Ray take the polygraph, which a Nashville newspaper later reported showed Ray lied when he denied killing the civil rights leader, the suit said.

Ray charges that the test, administered by a Chicago firm, was "rigged," and that the interview as published was "a subtle but distorted and malicious interpretation" of his words to dovetail with the polygraph results.

Ray claimed in the suit that the lie-detector test and interview improved the the case by the State of Tennessee against him.

The suit also claimed that *Playboy* agreed to pay Kershaw $11,000 for arranging the interview, a fee Ray was unaware of. He said he did not receive any compensation.

"*Playboy* never pays for interviews," company spokesman Dan Sheridan said.

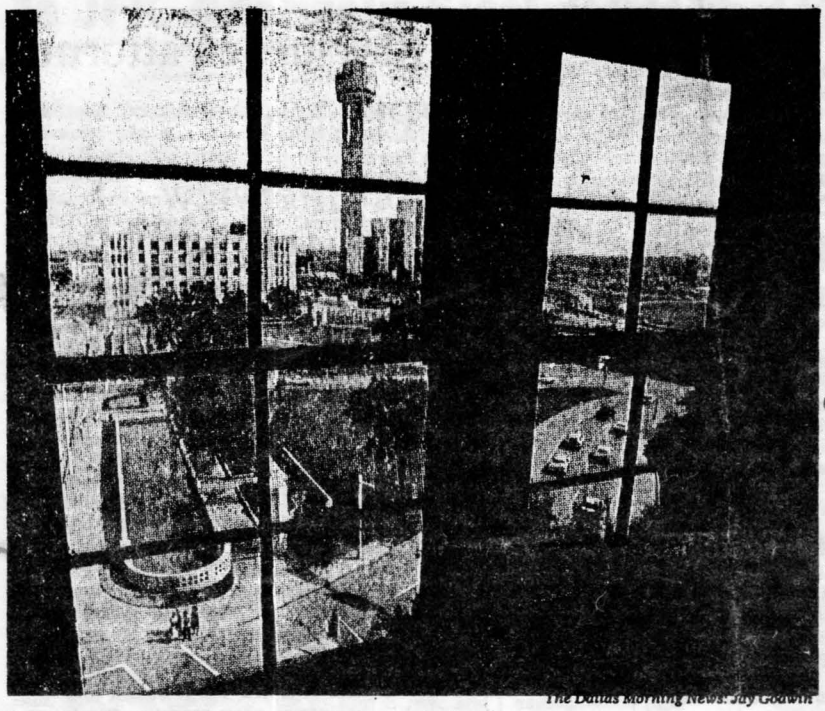
Ray asked the court to order *Playboy* and Kershaw to produce any contracts between them concerning the interview.

James Earl Ray . . . charges that the lie-detector test, administered by a Chicago firm, was "rigged."

FWST 5-28-82

JAMES EARL RAY
DENIED HEARING

The Tennessee Board of Paroles voted to deny assassin James Earl Ray a parole hearing on grounds he has been too violent to consider letting him go. The board voted 4 to 1 that although Ray has served 13 years — more than the required 10 percent of his 99-year sentence for killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. — he should not be eligible for a parole hearing because of his multiple attempts at escape. The board invited him to try again in three years.



The Dallas Morning News: Jay Godwin

The view from the old Texas School Book Depository sixth floor.

BRIEFS....
EARL GOLZ, one of the few responsible journalists on the JFK case and a Dallas Morning News staff writer for 13 years, has been terminated for revealing financial problems of an Abilene bank; the allegations were later proven correct and observers are waiting for the other shoe to drop (the DFW news media has yet to touch this story)....Watch for major articles on the JFK case by Earl in the November and December issues of Gallery magazine....JACK WHITE and GARY MACK, assistant editors of PENN JONES's The Continuing Inquiry, were dismissed after the March 1982 edition; Penn had nothing but compliments the whole time, but gave no explanation for his decision....
C E HULSE, one of the 3 DPD radio dispatchers, died in Dallas of an apparent heart attack May 6....
DAVID PHILLIPS' suit against the Washingtonian and GAETON FONZI was thrown out by the judge....DAVID LIFTON is working on a Best Evidence blowup for Fall 1983....The 1964 film documentary Four Days in November includes a still photo showing two people in the TSBD window holding a large paper bag; from the shadows the picture was taken about two hours after the assassination....film sequence shows H B McLAIN standing next to another officer who's being interviewed (probably the late JIM CHANEY)....
ROBERT GRODEN's blowups of Zapruder frames 188 and 194, which show a moving object very much like a motorcycle policeman's helmet, have been sent to Washington where G. Robert Blakey and Dick Billings are reportedly impressed....The Dallas Police have donated some items from storage to the Dallas Public library, including LHO's jail transfer handcuffs.

COMING IN FUTURE ISSUES OF COVERUPS!....The Couch & Weigman films and why Dick Sprague's HSCA analysis was wrong....more on Charles Harrelson, who may very well be the Tall Tramp (one source says he admits it)....some Canadian researchers have information that LHO may have been in Montreal in the summer of '63....the Michael Kurtz book Crime of the Century, which may surpass Appointment in Dallas for most absurd scenario....and hear here, acoustics.

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